

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A projection exposure system, having at least one beam splitter in a beam path of a pulsed laser light source said system having reflecting components splitting a principal beam for the passage of a partial beam on at least one detour line so that a beam recombining element joins the partial beam with the principal beam to form a total beam, said beam splitter having a mirror which is arranged at ~~the Brewster~~ an angle of from about 35 to about 50 to the beam path, ~~and having a phase-retarding plate in the beam path upstream of the beam splitter.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detour line has a length such that an optical path difference of more than 0.5 m is produced between the partial beams.

3. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least three reflecting components form a detour line .

Claims 4 - 6 (canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reflecting components are constructed as mirrors.

8. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein two detour lines are arranged in series in the beam path .

9. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein a first detour line has a length of over 2 m, and a second detour line has a length of over 10 m.

10. (canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the beam recombining element is constructed such that a portion of the partial beam which has run via the detour line is repeatedly sent via the detour line.

12. (canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 12, wherein a 10 phase-retarding plate is arranged in the beam path upstream of the beam splitter, and at least one further phase—retarding plate is arranged in the detour line.

Claims 14 - 15 (canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A projection exposure system, having at least one beam splitter in a beam path of a pulsed laser light source said system having reflecting components splitting a principal beam for the passage of a partial beam on at least one detour line so that a beam recombining element joins the partial beam with the principal beam to form a total beam, said beam splitter having a mirror which is arranged at an angle to the beam path, said detour line having an easily detuned kepler telescope positioned therein, said system further having a phase-retarding plate in the beam path upstream of the beam splitter.

17. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the detour line has a length such that an optical path difference of more than 0.5 m is produced between the partial beams.

18. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein at least three

reflecting components form a detour line.

19. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the angle is between 35 and 50°.

20. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19, wherein the Brewster angle is provided as the angle.

21. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the reflecting components are constructed as mirrors.

22. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein two detour lines are arranged in series in the beam path.

23. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 22, wherein a first detour line has a length of over 2 m, and a second detour line has a length of over 10 m.

24. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the beam recombining element is constructed such that a portion of the partial beam which has run via the detour line is repeatedly sent via the detour line.

25. (canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein a 10 phase-retarding plate is arranged in the beam path upstream of the beam splitter, and at least one further phase-retarding plate is arranged in the detour line.

27. (Currently Amended) A projection exposure system, having at least one beam splitter in a beam path of a pulsed laser light source said system having reflecting components splitting a

principal beam for the passage of a partial beam on at least one detour line so that a beam recombining element joins the partial beam with the principal beam to form a total beam, said beam splitter having a mirror which is arranged at the Brewster angle of from 35° to 50° to the beam path, said detour line having an easily detuned kepler telescope positioned therein, and said system having a phase-retarding plate in the beam path upstream of the beam splitter.

28. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the detour line has a length such that an optical path difference of more than 0.5 m is produced between the partial beams.

29. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 27, wherein at least three reflecting components form a detour line .

30. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the reflecting components are constructed as mirrors.

31. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 27, wherein two detour lines are arranged in series in the beam path .

32. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 31, wherein a first detour line has a length of over 2 m, and a second detour line has a length of over 10 m.

33. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the beam recombining element is constructed such that a portion of the partial beam which has run via the detour line is repeatedly sent via the detour line.

34. (canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 3427, wherein a 10 phase-retarding plate is arranged in the beam path upstream of the beam splitter, and at least one further phase—retarding plate is arranged in the detour line.

36. (Currently Amended) A projection exposure system, having at least one beam splitter in a beam path of a pulsed laser light source said system having reflecting components splitting a principal beam for the passage of a partial beam on at least one detour line so that a beam recombining element joins the partial beam with the principal beam to form a total beam, said beam splitter having a mirror which is arranged at ~~the Brewster~~ an angle of from about 35° to about 50° to the beam path, said detour line having an easily detuned kepler telescope positioned therein, and of such a length that an optical path difference of more than 0.5 m. is produced between the partial beams, and having a phase-retarding plate in the beam path upstream of the beam splitter.

37. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 36, wherein at least three reflecting components form a detour line .

38. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the reflecting components are constructed as mirrors.

39. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 36, wherein two detour lines are arranged in series in the beam path .

40. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 39, wherein a first detour line has a length of over 2 m, and a second detour line has a length of over 10 m.

41. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the beam recombining element is constructed such that a portion of the partial beam which has run via the detour line is repeatedly sent via the detour line.

42. (canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 42~~36~~, wherein a 10 phase-retarding plate is arranged in the beam path upstream of the beam splitter, and at least one further phase—retarding plate is arranged in the detour line.

44. (Currently Amended) A projection exposure system, having at least one beam splitter in a beam path of a pulsed laser light source said system having reflecting components splitting a principal beam for the passage of a partial beam on a first detour line having a length of over 2 m and a second detour line having a length of over 10 m, so that a beam recombining element joins the partial beam with the principal beam to form a total beam, said beam splitter having a mirror which is arranged at the Brewster an angle of from about 35° to about 50° to the beam path, and having a phase-retarding plate in the beam path upstream of the beam splitter.

45. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 44, wherein the detour line has a length such that an optical path difference of more than 0.5 m is produced between the partial beams.

46. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 44, wherein at least three reflecting components form a detour line .

47. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 44, wherein the reflecting components are constructed as mirrors.

48. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 44, wherein the beam recombining element is constructed such that a portion of the partial beam which has run via the detour line is repeatedly sent via the detour line.

49. (canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~49~~44, wherein a 10 phase-retarding plate is arranged in the beam path upstream of the beam splitter, and at least one further phase—retarding plate is arranged in the detour line.

51. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the mirror is arranged at the Brewster angle to the beam path.

52. (New) The system of claim 16 wherein the mirror is arranged at the Brewster angle to the beam path.

53. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein the mirror is arranged at the Brewster angle to the beam path.

54. (New) The system of claim 36 wherein the mirror is arranged at the Brewster angle to the beam path.

55. (New) The system of claim 44 wherein the mirror is arranged at the Brewster angle to the beam path.